

VRS in State Bank of India

55. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 10 per cent of the staff of State Bank of India has applied for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in 4 days in January, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 25 per cent of the officers would retire resulting in vacuum in certain sensitive expertise and specified posts/jobs; and

(c) the number of staff of SBI who have applied for VRS till January, 2001; and

(d) the action taken for early training of the employees to ensure that efficiency does not hamper while opening its VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India have reported that as of now 7983 offices which represent 13.4% of the total officers have been permitted to retire under VRS. Specialist Officers and highly skilled and qualified staff are ineligible to seek voluntary retirement under the scheme.

(c) The total number of Officers/employees who have applied for VRS till 31.01.2001 is 35380.

(d) The training requirement of the staff arising from the redeployment necessitated by VRS is being worked out by the bank and, if necessary, crash training programmes will be held.

Additional surcharge on Income tax

56. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to impose an additional levy of two per cent on all the income tax assesseees with an annual income of more than Rs. 60,000;

(b) whether the same additional surcharge will also be imposed on all companies;

(c) if so, what will be the annual income turn-over of companies attracting this levy;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) how much additional revenue is expected to be generated by way of fresh taxation; and

(f) in what manner this amount would be spent by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The additional surcharge is levied on all domestic companies, irrespective of their annual income.

(e) About Rs. 1,300 crores.

(f) The amount is proposed to be spent for the relief and rehabilitation of areas of Gujarat hit by a massive earthquake on 26th January, 2001.

Showcause notice to M/s Seagrams

57. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Show-cause notice slapped on Seagrams for duty evasion" appearing in the Indian Express (New Delhi) on the 27th December, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s Seagrams had been under invoicing the import of Scotch concentrates for five years and evaded customs duty to the tune of Rs. 35 crores; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.